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FRY - pencils
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JEFF POWELL - letterer
FRANK GIORGIARDO - colorist
J.F. GABRIE - editor/art director
VICTOR GORELICK - managing editor
RICHARD GOLDWATER - editor in chief

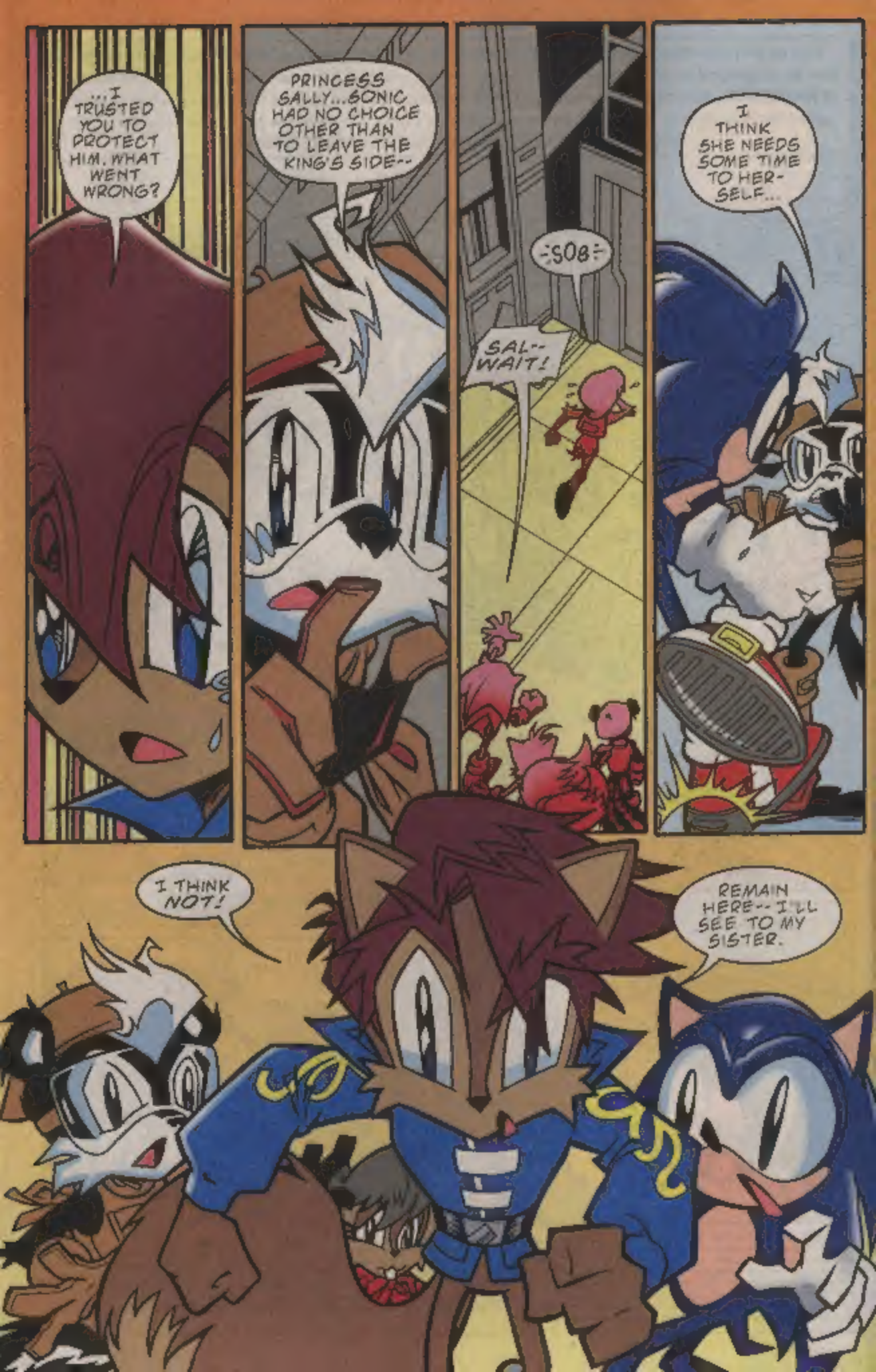
KING MAX'S HURT PRETTY BAD-- INTO THE EMERGENCY ROOM! STAT!

DAD! NO, NOT YOU!

THICKER THAN WATER

CHAPTER ONE

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (isan:10705080), No. 86, Dec., 2000. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher. Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $1.99 in the U.S.; $2.19 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $20.88 for 12 issues; $28.26 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. Sega is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sega, Sonic The Hedgehog and all related characters and indicia are trademark of SEGA. Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc., P.O. Box 7654, San Francisco, CA 94120-7654. © 2000 SEGA. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under a license from Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada.

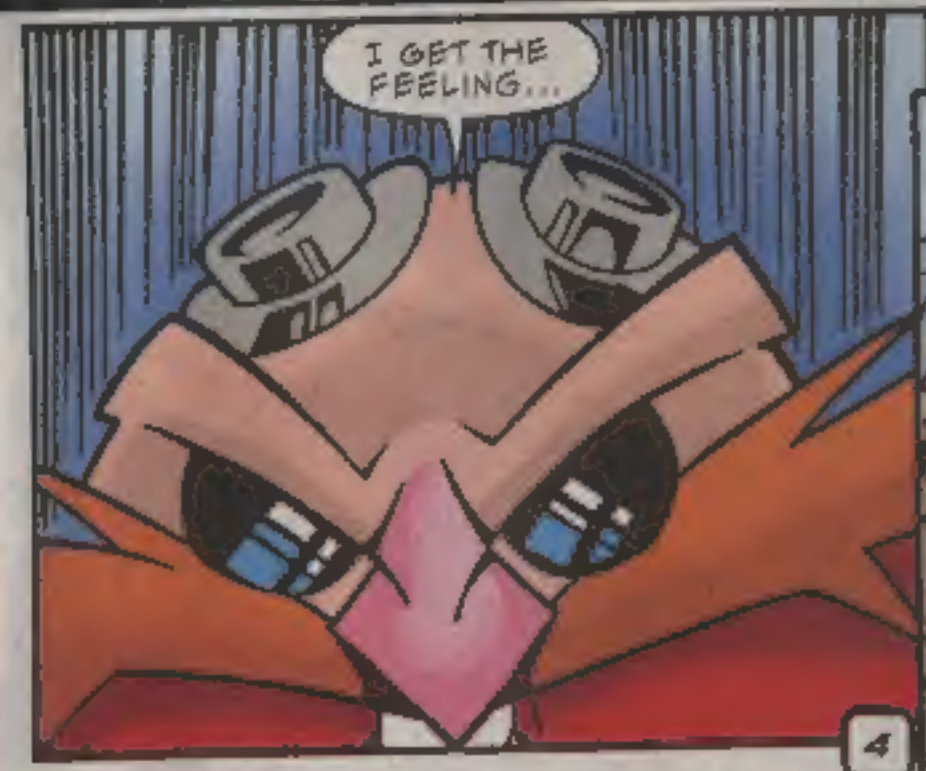

...I TRUSTED YOU TO PROTECT HIM. WHAT WENT WRONG?
PRINCESS SALLY...SONIC HAD NO CHOICE OTHER THAN TO LEAVE THE KING'S SIDE--
SOB
SAL-- WAIT!
I THINK SHE NEEDS SOME TIME TO HER-SELF...
I THINK NOT!
REMAIN HERE-- I'LL SEE TO MY SISTER.

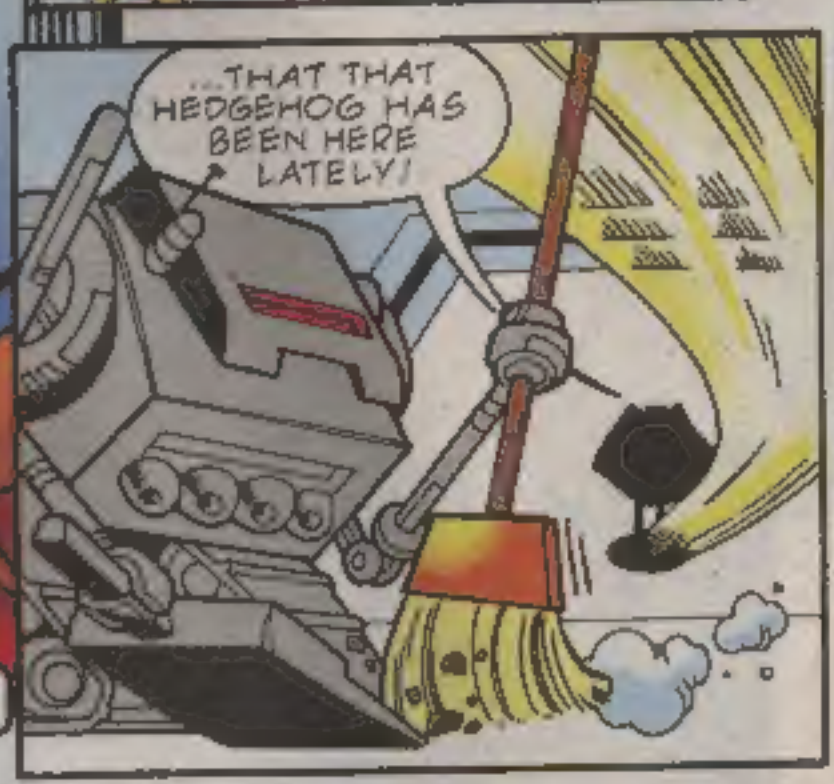
ROBOTROPOLIS...
GET INSIDE!
WELL SAID, INDEED...
...BUT FROM NOW ON...

...I'LL GIVE THE ORDERS AROUND HERE COMPRENDE?
NOW STEP ASIDE...

...I'VE BEEN ABROAD FOR FAR TOO LONG AND...

...AND...
...WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY SCIENCE LAB?


I GET THE FEELING...


...THAT THAT HEDGEHOG HAS BEEN HERE LATELY!

GET A LOAD OF *MISTER PERFECT* OVER THERE...

GUARD, RETURN THE SWORD OF ACORNS TO THE ROYAL RELIQUARY AT ONCE!

YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF, SONIC -- I'VE KNOWN SALLY SINCE SHE WAS *LITTLE*...

...AND BELIEVE ME, HER *OUTBURST* CAME AS A RESULT OF THE INTENSE *PRESSURE* SHE'S UNDERGOING.

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, ROSIE, BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING LIKE I LET HER DOWN BIG-TIME...

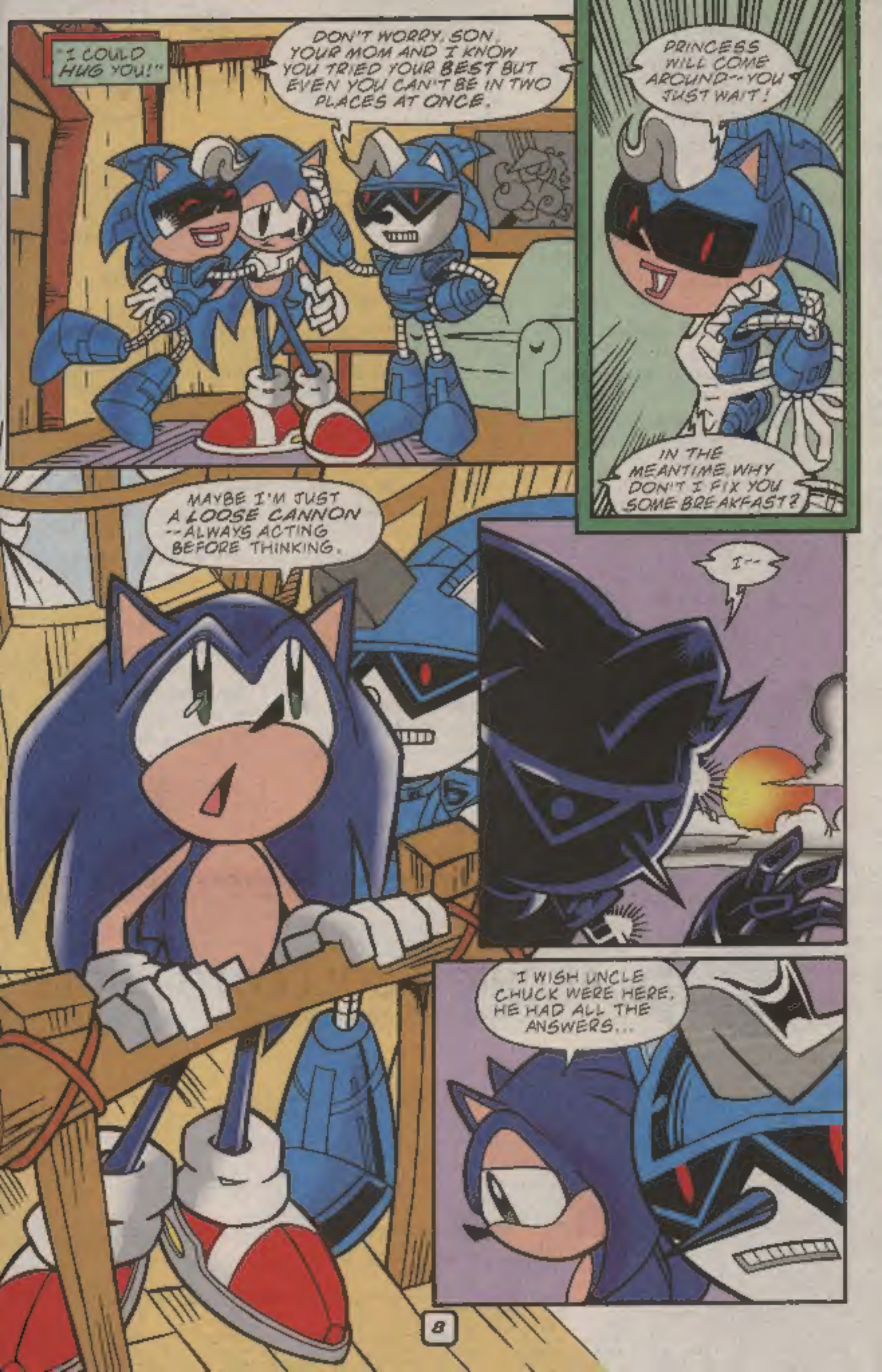
HIYA, ROSIE -- WE JUST GOT BACK FROM OUR WALK!

THANKS FOR BABY-SITTING, *MINA*.

I WONDER WHY SONIC SEEMS SO *GLUM*?

ELSEWHERE IN KNOTHOLE
WHERE COULD SHE BE?
THERE. I'VE NEVER SEEN HER GET LIKE THIS! SO... LOST...
IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT, ISN'T IT...
...WHEN THINGS START SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL?
START? THEY'VE BEEN SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL FOR SOME TIME NOW.
HOW SO?

I USED TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON WHEN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND ENDED WITH ME. BUT EVER SINCE HIS RETURN...
...DAD'S KEPT THINGS FROM ME AND LEFT ME OUT OF EVERY DECISION. AND NOW YOU, TOO...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, SALLY. AND IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO DO SO.
YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN INFORMED OF MOTHER'S CONDITION BEFORE YOU'D LEFT FOR THAT HIDDEN CITY OF THE OLD ONES...
ANCIENTS.
I'M NOT READY TO LOSE MOM AND DAD.
SEE? FATHER SHOULD'VE APPOINTED YOU THE SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE. YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR IT...
NOR I. BUT TELL ME...
...WHY DID YOU TAKE YOUR ANGER OUT ON SONIC INSTEAD OF ME?
I ASKED HIM TO PROTECT DAD, AND NOW...
BUT, SALLY, HE LEFT DAD'S SIDE TO RESCUE ME!
OH, SONIC!


"I COULD HUG YOU!"
DON'T WORRY, SON. YOUR MOM AND I KNOW YOU TRIED YOUR BEST BUT EVEN YOU CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE.
PRINCESS WILL COME AROUND--YOU JUST WAIT!
IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T I FIX YOU SOME BREAKFAST?
MAYBE I'M JUST A LOOSE CANNON --ALWAYS ACTING BEFORE THINKING.
I--
I WISH UNCLE CHUCK WERE HERE. HE HAD ALL THE ANSWERS...

THICKER THAN WATER

CHAPTER TWO

SONIC AND COMPANY ACTUALLY HAD THE *NERVE* TO STORM MY BASE OF OPERATIONS?

"AND THE KING'S *SWORD* SOMEHOW RESTORED *FREE WILL* TO THE HEDGEHOG'S UNCLE AND PET DOG?"

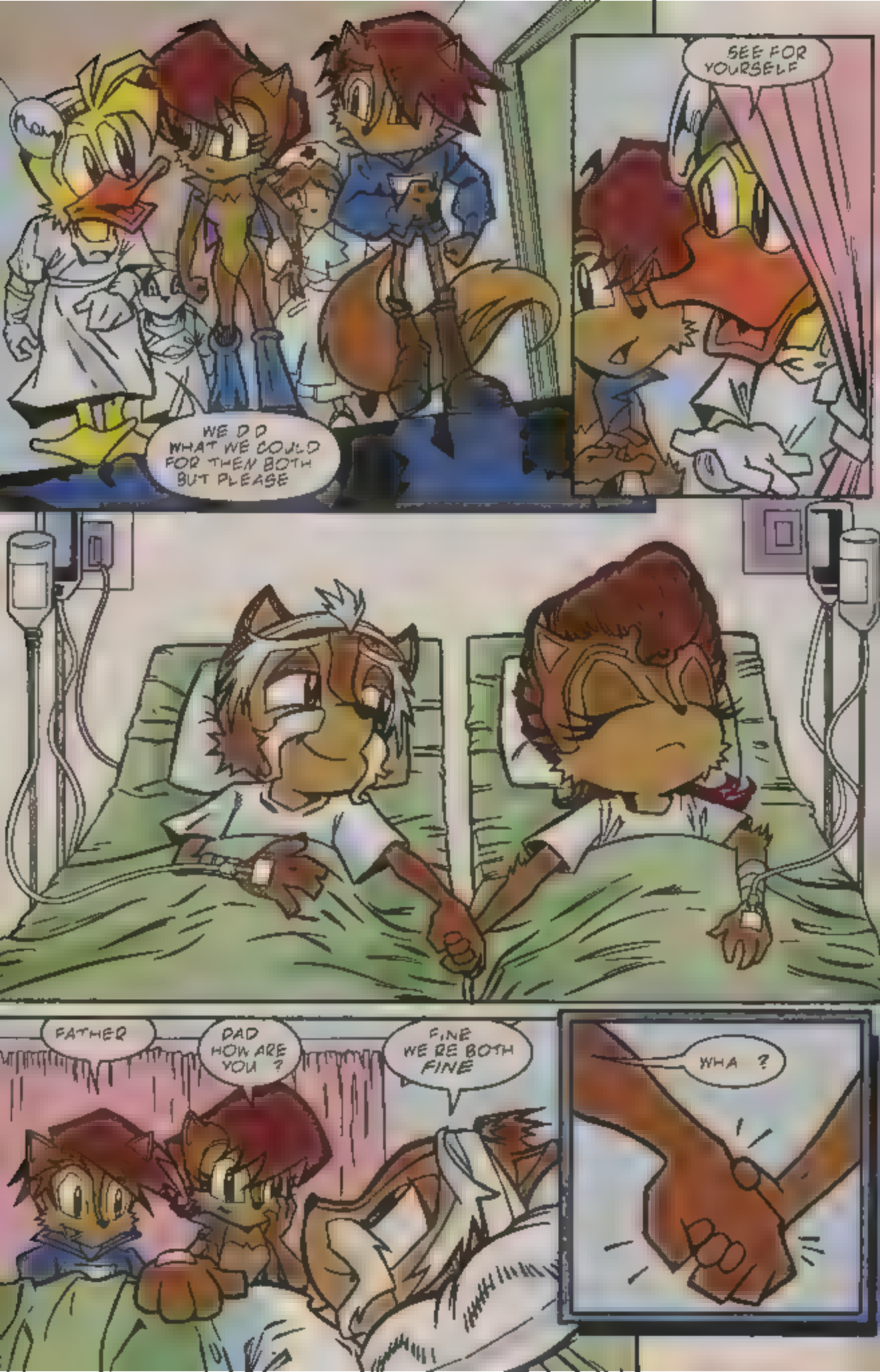
FIND ME THAT WEAPON AT ONCE!

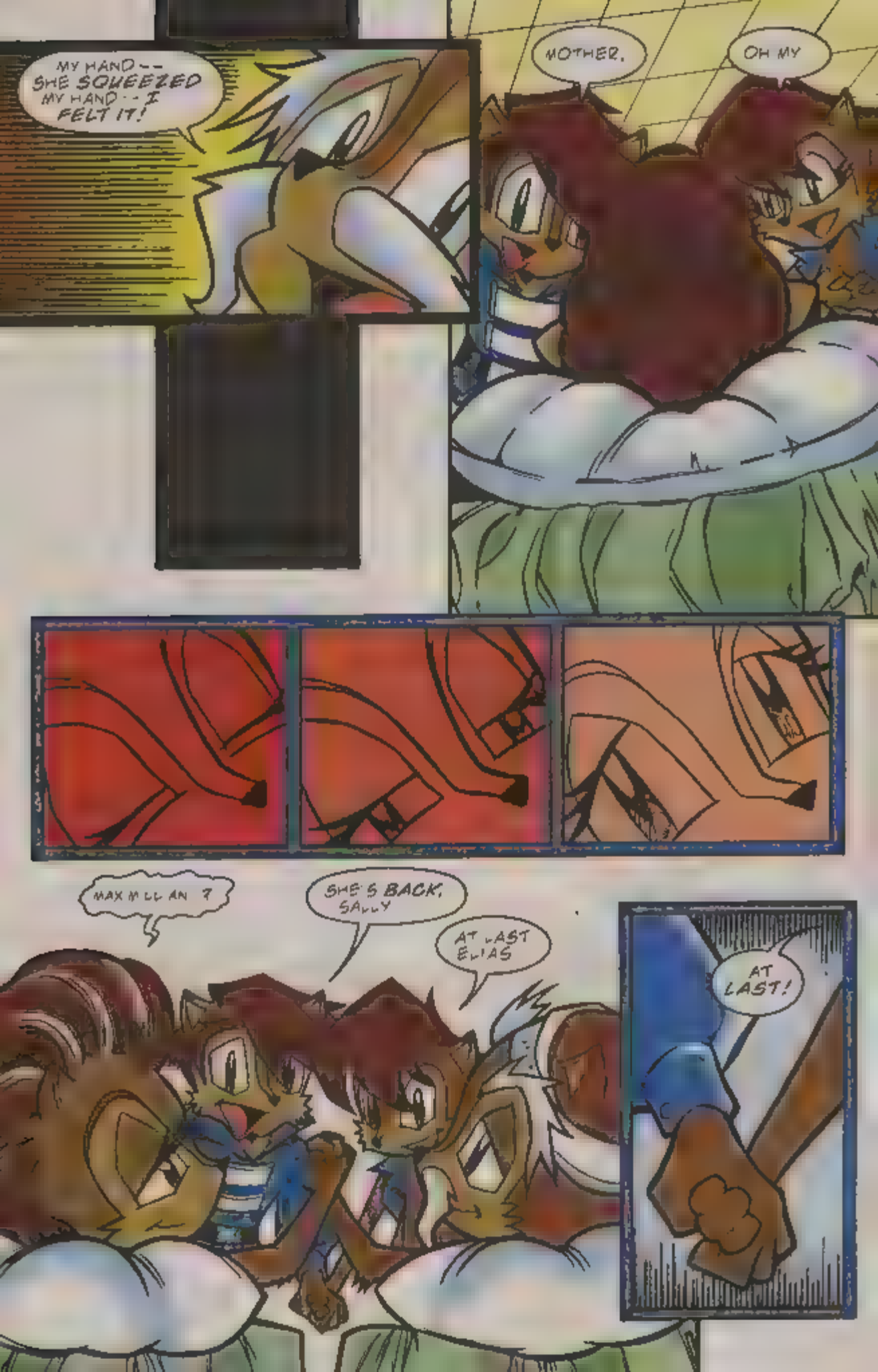
UNCLE CHUCK SEEMED LIKE HIS OLD SELF AGAIN WHEN SALLY POINTED THE SWORD OF ACORNS AT HIM. HUH, TAILS?
YOU SAID IT, SONIC!
WISH I'D HAD MORE TIME TO FIGURE IT OUT..
...BUT MY BEST GUESS IS THAT IT MIGHT BE THE KEY TO RESTORING THE ROBLANS' FREE WILL.
BREAKFAST IS SERVED, BOYS! BETTER GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT
OR IN THIS CASE CHILI!

DOGS THAT S ..
WELL SON HOW ARE THEY?
"THEYRE GREAT
CHUCKS
CHILI DOGS
SMELLS AWESOME
I M SS MOMMA S COOK NG SHE S GONE EVERY-ONE CLOSE TO ME IS GONE
AND IT S ALL ROBOTN K S FAULT!

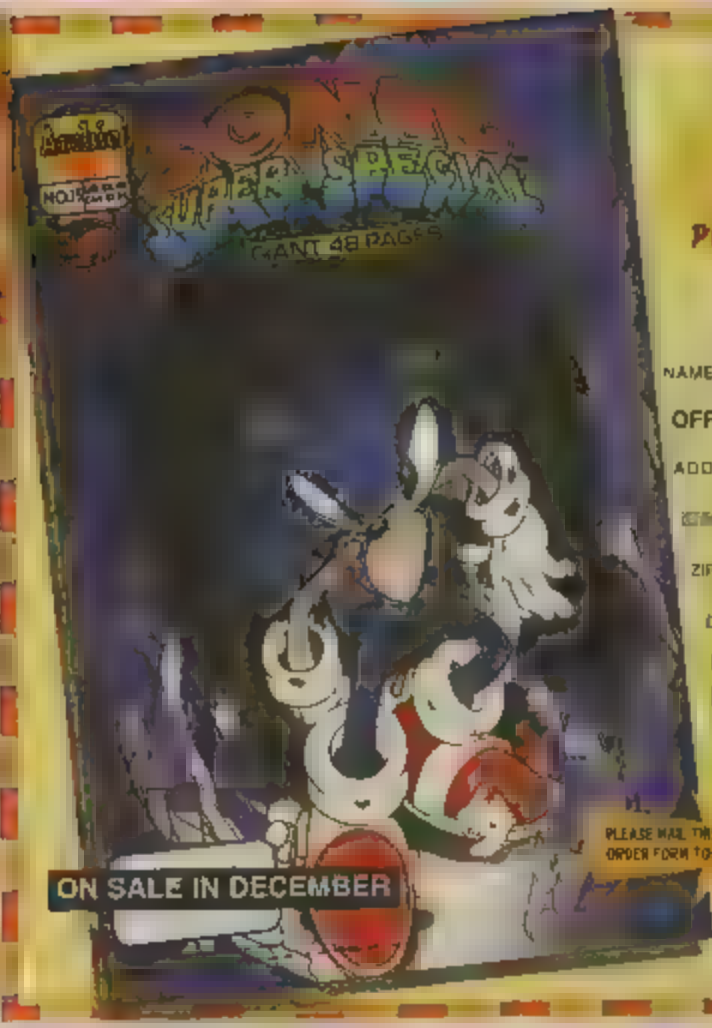
"I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT-- NOW!"
SALLY'S MOM AND DAD ARE GONNA BE OKAY, RIGHT, SONIC?
SONIC?
THAT WAS SOME BREEZE!

YOUR MAJESTIES! THE SURGERY HAS BEEN COMPLETED!
PRINCESS SALLY, PRINCE ELIAS.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY


WE D D WHAT WE COULD FOR THEM BOTH BUT PLEASE
SEE FOR YOURSELF
FATHER
DAD HOW ARE YOU ?
FINE WE RE BOTH FINE
WHA ?


MY HAND -- SHE SQUEEZED MY HAND -- I FELT IT!
MOTHER.
OH MY
MAXIMILLIAN ?
SHE'S BACK, SALLY
AT LAST ELIAS
AT LAST!

TO BE CONTINU



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Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

KNUCKLES HAS SET OFF ON A QUEST TO LEARN THE FATE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND AND ALL WHO LIVED UPON IT. HIS TRAVELS HAVE BROUGHT HIM HERE, TO SMOTTINGHAM FOREST AND OLD FRIENDS.

A MATTER OF SELF INTEREST

UPON COMPARING NOTES, IT WAS DECIDED THAT ANSWERS MIGHT BE FOUND ACROSS THE CHANNEL ON THE ISLAND HOMELAND OF THE ECHIDNA RACE, ALBION! AND SO IT IS WE FIND KNUCKLES AND COMPANY SETTING SAIL UNDER A PALE MOONLIGHT...

DIDN'T THOU WALK ACROSS THE WATER'S SURFACE LAST WE MET?

YEAH! BUT I HAVE THIS THING ABOUT WATER AND TEMPTING FATE!

WHATEVER WERE YOU DOING HEAH, SUGAH-KNUCKLES?

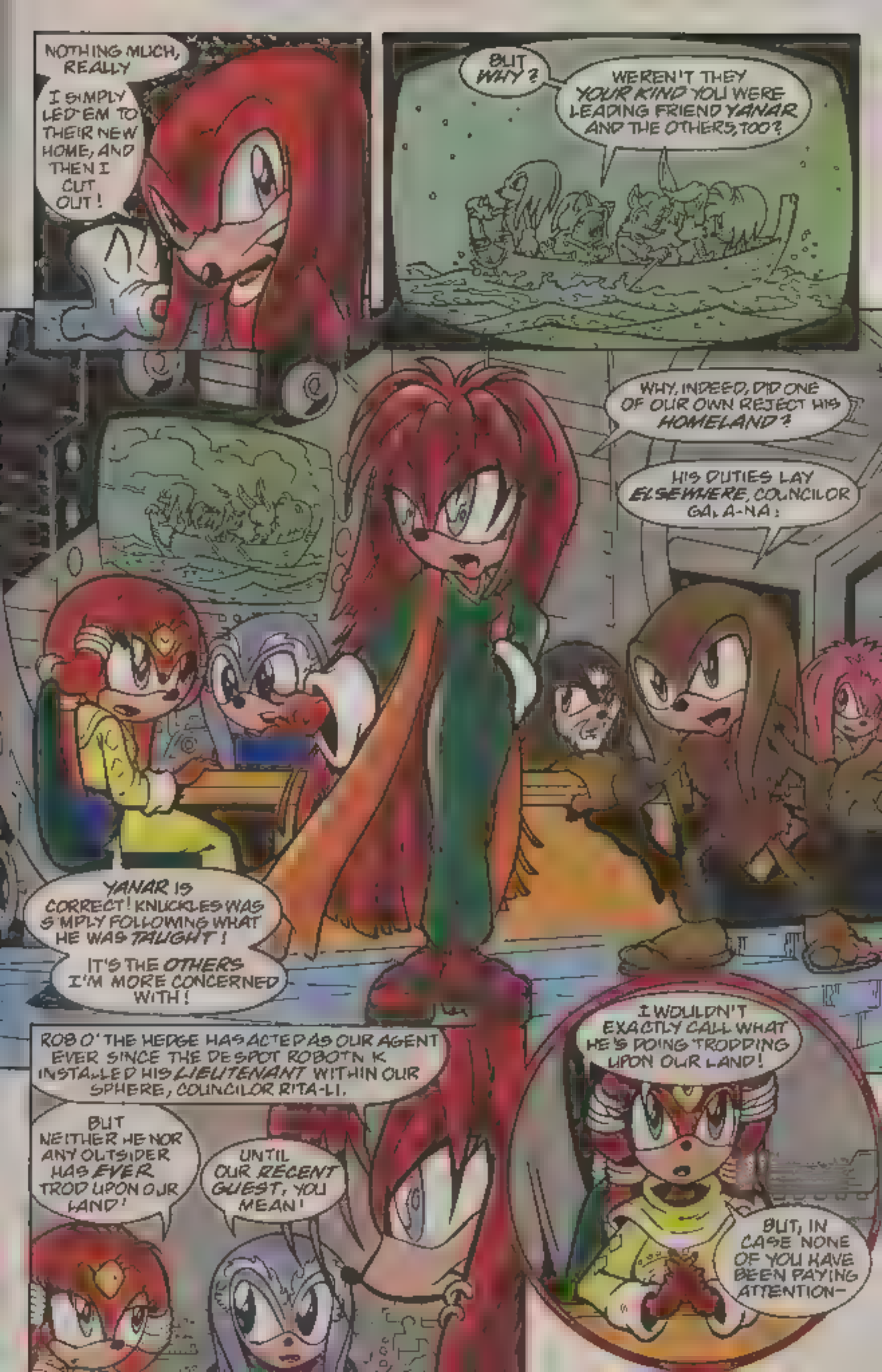
I THOUGHT YOU USUALLY STAY ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

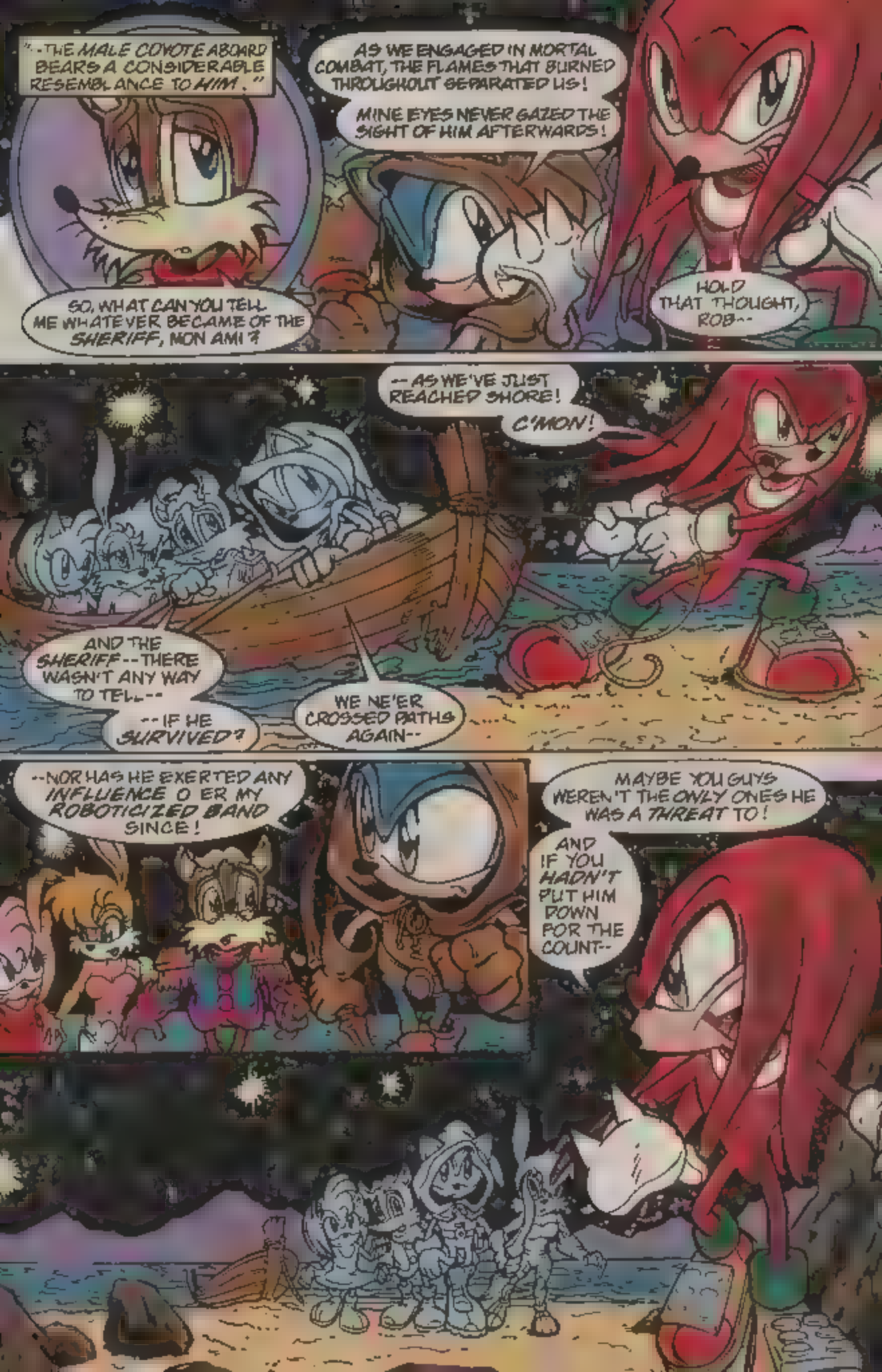
FRIEND KNUCKLES HERE WAS MAKING A HOLY PILGRIMAGE TO REUNITE A LOST TRIBE WITH THEIR KIN!

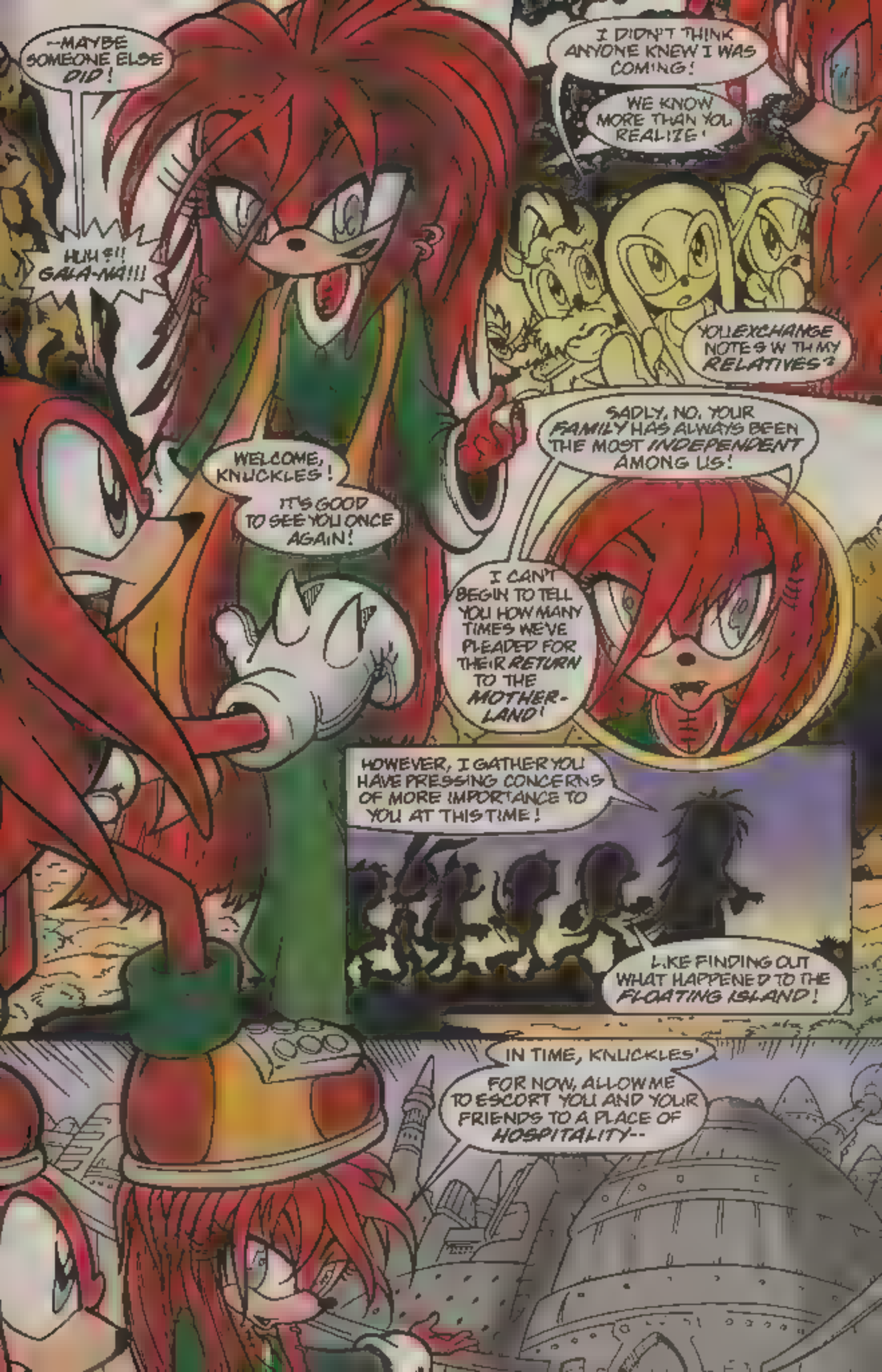
ALONG THE WAY, WE HELD HARD AND DEFEATED THE DREADED SHERIFF!

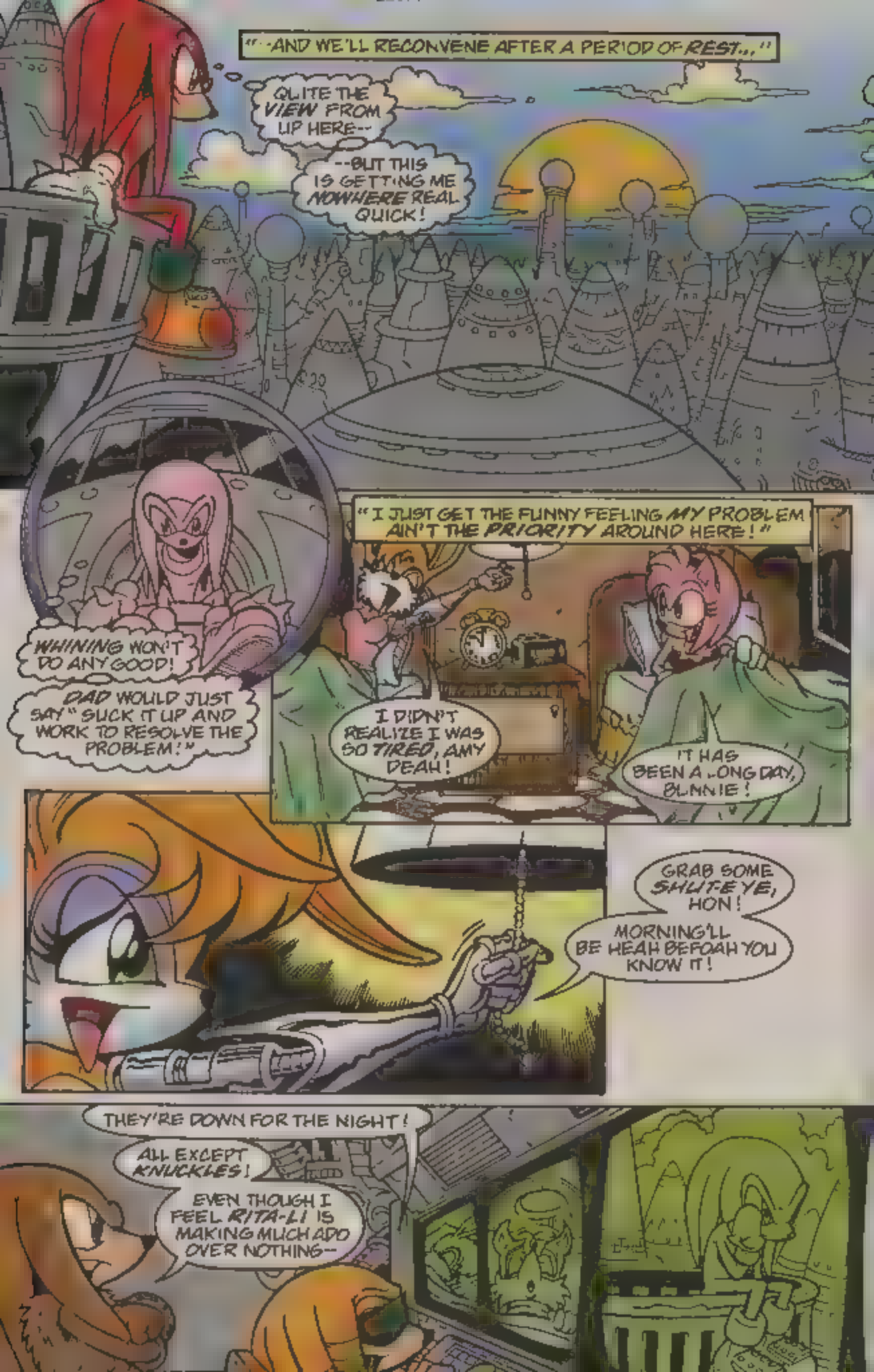
UNFORTUNATELY, WE NE'ER SANG OR CELEBRATED OUR GREAT VICTORY TOGETHER!

WHATE'ER DID BECOME OF YOU AFTER, MY FRIEND?


NOTHING MUCH, REALLY
I SIMPLY LED 'EM TO THEIR NEW HOME, AND THEN I CUT OUT!
BUT WHY?
WEREN'T THEY YOUR KIND YOU WERE LEADING FRIEND YANAR AND THE OTHERS, TOO?
WHY, INDEED, DID ONE OF OUR OWN REJECT HIS HOMELAND?
HIS DUTIES LAY ELSEWHERE, COUNCILOR GA, A-NA!
YANAR IS CORRECT! KNUCKLES WAS SIMPLY FOLLOWING WHAT HE WAS TAUGHT!
IT'S THE OTHERS I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH!
ROB O' THE HEDGE HAS ACTED AS OUR AGENT EVER SINCE THE DESPOT ROBOTNIK INSTALLED HIS LIEUTENANT WITHIN OUR SPHERE, COUNCILOR RITA-LI.
BUT NEITHER HE NOR ANY OUTSIDER HAS EVER TROD UPON OUR LAND!
UNTIL OUR RECENT GUEST, YOU MEAN!
I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL WHAT HE'S DOING TRODDING UPON OUR LAND!
BUT, IN CASE NONE OF YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION—


"--THE MALE COYOTE ABOARD BEARS A CONSIDERABLE RESEMBLANCE TO HIM."
AS WE ENGAGED IN MORTAL COMBAT, THE FLAMES THAT BURNED THROUGHOUT SEPARATED US!
MINE EYES NEVER GAZED THE SIGHT OF HIM AFTERWARDS!
SO, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME WHATEVER BECAME OF THE SHERIFF, MON AMI?
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, ROB--
--AS WE'VE JUST REACHED SHORE!
C'MON!
AND THE SHERIFF--THERE WASN'T ANY WAY TO TELL--
--IF HE SURVIVED?
WE NE'ER CROSSED PATHS AGAIN--
--NOR HAS HE EXERTED ANY INFLUENCE O ER MY ROBOTICIZED BAND SINCE!
MAYBE YOU GUYS WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES HE WAS A THREAT TO!
AND IF YOU HADN'T PUT HIM DOWN FOR THE COUNT--


--MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE DID!
HUH?!! GALA-NA!!!
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE KNEW I WAS COMING!
WE KNOW MORE THAN YOU REALIZE!
YOU EXCHANGE NOTES WITH MY RELATIVES?
SADLY, NO. YOUR FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST INDEPENDENT AMONG US!
WELCOME, KNUCKLES!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN!
I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES WE'VE PLEADED FOR THEIR RETURN TO THE MOTHER-LAND!
HOWEVER, I GATHER YOU HAVE PRESSING CONCERNS OF MORE IMPORTANCE TO YOU AT THIS TIME!
LIKE FINDING OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND!
IN TIME, KNUCKLES!
FOR NOW, ALLOW ME TO ESCORT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO A PLACE OF HOSPITALITY--


"...AND WE'LL RECONVENE AFTER A PERIOD OF REST..."
QUITE THE VIEW FROM UP HERE--
--BUT THIS IS GETTING ME NOWHERE REAL QUICK!
WHINING WON'T DO ANY GOOD!
DAD WOULD JUST SAY "SUCK IT UP AND WORK TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM!"
"I JUST GET THE FUNNY FEELING MY PROBLEM AIN'T THE PRIORITY AROUND HERE!"
I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS SO TIRED, AMY DEAH!
IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY, BUNNIE!
GRAB SOME SHUT-EYE, HON!
MORNING'LL BE HEAH BEFOAH YOU KNOW IT!
THEY'RE DOWN FOR THE NIGHT!
ALL EXCEPT KNUCKLES!
EVEN THOUGH I FEEL RITA-LI IS MAKING MUCH ADO OVER NOTHING--

-I THOUGHT I SHOULD STOP BY TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING, KNUCKLES.

YANAR!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MY FRIEND!

IS THIS SOCIAL--OR BUSINESS, YANAR?

YOU CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE, DON'T YOU?

WE KNOW THE REASON YOU'VE COME!

WE CAN PRETTY MUCH GUESS WHY THE OTHERS ARE HERE, AS WELL!

YOU MEAN YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND?!!

ALONG WITH EVERYONE ON IT?!!

AND NONE OF YOU [illegible] ANYTHING ABOUT IT?!!!

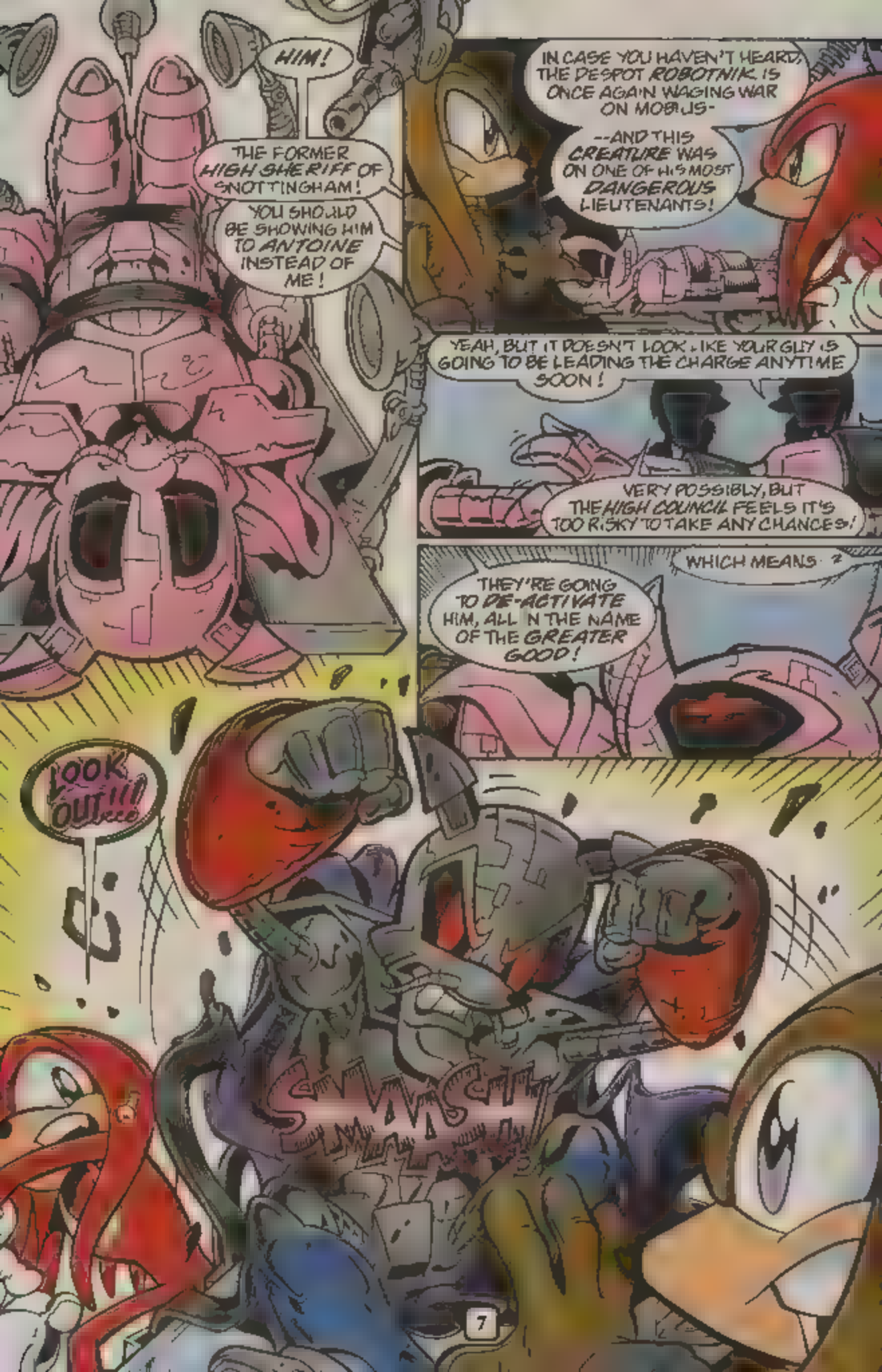
THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO TO STOP IT FROM HAPPENING!

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE A MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM!

ONE THAT CONCERNS YOUR FRIENDS!

OH, YEAH?

SUCH AS?


HIM!
THE FORMER HIGH SHERIFF OF SNOTTINGHAM!
YOU SHOULD BE SHOWING HIM TO ANTOINE INSTEAD OF ME!
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, THE DESPOT ROBOTNIK IS ONCE AGAIN WAGING WAR ON MOBIUS-
--AND THIS CREATURE WAS ON ONE OF HIS MOST DANGEROUS LIEUTENANTS!
YEAH, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOUR GUY IS GOING TO BE LEADING THE CHARGE ANYTIME SOON!
VERY POSSIBLY, BUT THE HIGH COUNCIL FEELS IT'S TOO RISKY TO TAKE ANY CHANCES!
WHICH MEANS...?
THEY'RE GOING TO DE-ACTIVATE HIM, ALL IN THE NAME OF THE GREATER GOOD!
LOOK OUT!!!
SMASH

GET BACK!!!
LET ME DEAL WITH 'IM!!!
EASY NOW, BUD!
WE CAN DO THIS THE EASY WAY!
WHAT WAS ZAT?!!
LOOK TO THE OTHERS!!
THERE BE SERIOUS VILLAINY AFOOT!
AND IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, DEAR READERS!! BE HERE FOR...
NEXT: ONE LAST CHANCE!

SONIC-GRAMS

THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
Editor

I know. I know. You bought this issue to read the newest Off Panel strip from Gallagher and Manak. After 20+ issues of their comic strips, Mike and Dave are taking an issue off. So instead we have this plain old page, full of lots of words and stuff. Well, Sonic & Knuckles fans... Sonic The Hedgehog #100 is only a dozen issues away. We've already written the plot and are so excited about all the earth-shattering events that we can barely contain it to ourselves. Have any guesses as to what will happen to our Sonic, Knuckles and all the other characters when the big 1- 0- 0 hits? Yes, you do. In fact, this is what I'd like all of you to do. Send me a letter (via snail mail only) with what you think will happen to your favorites. On the day 100 hits the stands, we will print all the letters that got it right in that issue! Of course we will print others as well just so you can see what your fellow fans are thinking. So what are you waiting for, take out that pen, paper, envelope and stamp (yeah, you remember those old things) and send it to the address below. Please add, "I know what happens in #100!" on the envelope to better find your letter. So that is your Sonic project for the year! Can't wait to read those letters, so hurry!

Catch you on the flip...

Next issue: They say that birds of a feather flock together, but Sonic and Mina aren't birds, and neither of them have feathers. So what exactly do they have in common? Besides a bloodthirsty army of Robotnik's ultra-improved Com-Bots out to get them, that is? More than you (or they) would think! But don't take our word for it, see for yourself next month when it all happens right in the pages of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #90 as chronicled by Karl Bollers, framed by FRY, and ably embellished by Andrew Pepoy!

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.

Thanks for understanding!

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jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
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Well, gang... it's that time again! Sonic-Gram time!

Dear Sonic,
I recently bought a copy of "SONIC ADVENTURE," and thought it was awesome! Maybe you could do another comic with Sonic versus Chaos. My brother and I love your comics. I don't see how anyone couldn't love them. I just hope your comics continue for a long time.
Chris Fields, Louisville, TN

Another round with Chaos, Chris! We know a certain blue hedgehog who can't stand the thought of a rematch!

Dear Sonic the Hedgehog comics,
I like reading your comics a lot! I have three questions and one comment:
1) I read an old issue and Sonic had a dog. What happened to him? 2) Why are the SONIC UNDERGROUND television show and the comic so different from each other? 3) I think the comic would be better if you got rid of Doctor Robotnik and got a new bad guy!
4) Will you print my letter?!
Travis Clipston, Ormstown, CAN

1) Muttski made an appearance last issue, Travis, and if you read it you already know that he remains under Robotnik's control! 2) SONIC UNDERGROUND takes place in an alternate zone/reality--grab ahold of SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #10 for the full scoop. 3) Isn't Robotnik bad enough?! 4) Since you asked so nicely...

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I love your comic and Sega Dreamcast's version of SONIC ADVENTURE. That's why I started collecting to start with. I was walking through my convenience store and immediately saw issue #82 because it was an adaptation of my favorite video game. So I sent in for a subscription, and then SUPER SPECIAL #13. I'm hooked! As for issue #83– the story, the art, the ending, they all ruled! Also, pleeeeaze bring KNUCKLES back! I would like a subscription to that, too! Keep up the good work!
Eric Rexroat, St. Charles, MO

Hold on tight, Eric! Things in this comic are only starting to heat up! As for the most extreme echidna of them all, tell your friends to drop us a line (like you did) letting us know that you demand more KNUCKLES!

Hiya Sonic,
I think your comics are great! I even have one of your video games! You're so cool!
Joseph Brown, Lynchburg, VA

Thanks, Joseph! You're pretty cool yourself!

Dear Sonic-Grams,
What's up?! Wal-Mart used to sell your comic, but it doesn't anymore. Luckily, I got them somewhere else, but I missed about twenty issues! Could you bring me up to date? 1) Where did Elias come from? 2) How did King Acorn get revived? 3) Is Robo-Robotnik the one you're showing in the comics now? Sonic is waaaay past cool!!!
Gabriel Vicari (age 10), Floral City, FL

1) Elias had been living on Knuckles' Floating Island for the past ten years. 2) King Max was revived by the talismanic Sword of Acorns back in SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #4. 3) You guessed right, Gabe!

Dear Archie,
I have got to be the biggest Sonic fan ever. Sadly, I have missed issue #75 and #76. I have more than a year's worth (and more) of your comics, and boy, I've got to tell you each one just keeps getting better. By the way, how old is Sonic now? Well, anyway, the main question I'm trying to ask is: May I order 75 and 76?
Brian D. Bain, Chicago, IL

Yes, Brian...you may! Just take a peek at our subscription page located elsewhere in this comic you're reading, and you'll also see our back-issue order form. By the way, Sonic is sixteen years old.

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I agree with Max, who wrote to you from Oklahoma City, in issue #83. My friends and I think it really stinks that you cancelled the KNUCKLES comic. The first comic book I ever read was KNUCKLES #22. The Dreamcast adaptation was really cool, but when you're done, please try to bring the comic back!
Austin Carnahan, St. Louis, MO

Another request for the return of the KNUCKLES comic...are we detecting a pattern, Austin?

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I just wanted to say that I would like to see Knuckles' comic series back in print. It is my favorite comic book. I read SONIC too, and I think it's great, but 1) What happened to the comedy? 2) Why did the Freedom Fighters go to the Hidden City of the Ancients? 3) What kind of animal is Antoine? Well, that pretty much covers all my questions except...4) did I mention to bring back Knuckles' comic?
Chris Yee
Grosse Ile, MI

1) Before the laughter, there are often tears, Chris... 2) To stop Robotnik from conquering it. 3) Antoine is a coyote. 4) Yes, you did...and we're definitely sensing a distinct pattern here...

Thanks for all the mail, kids! Sorry we couldn't print 'em all. See you in thirty days when we review more of 'em! Until then...

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover illustration by Patrick Spaziante and Harvey Mercado-casio with colors and seps by Josh D. Ray.

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